

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 17-20, and 45-48 are pending herein.

I. The specification has been respectfully amended, and a substitute specification has been submitted.

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for his suggestions, which have been implemented. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

II. The claim objections.

The USPTO respectfully objects to claims 1, 10, 12, 18, 32, and 37 for informalities. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for his suggestions, which have been implemented. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph.

The USPTO respectfully rejects claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Applicants respectfully note that claims 14-16 have been cancelled. However, the subject matter of claims 14-16 has been incorporated into claim 1. Accordingly, the § 112, first paragraph rejections are still an outstanding issue.

Regarding the subject matter of cancelled claim 14, it is respectfully asserted that support can be found on page 19, lines 10-20 of the present specification, which reads:

“ When transmission of the circulation file by the aforementioned circulation transmission processor 16 has failed to terminate correctly, the disabled circulation report processor 21 specifies the client 2 (or server 1) to which report is sent, based on the report destination information included in the circulation information file of the circulation file. At the same time, a disabled circulation report file is sent to the aforementioned report destination notifying that the circulation file cannot be sent to the next circulation client 2.”

Regarding the subject matter of cancelled claims 15-16, it is respectfully asserted that support can be found on page 19, line 20, through page 20, line 5, which reads:

“ When transmission of the circulation file by the aforementioned circulation transmission processor 16 has failed to terminate correctly, the selection/transmission processor 22 specifies the proxy client 2 of the next circulation client 2, based on the proxy destination information included in the circulation information file of the circulation file.”

Thus, it is respectfully asserted that one skilled in the art would be able to make or use the subject matter claimed in claim 1

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph.

The USPTO respectfully rejects claims 27-39 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants respectfully note that these claims have been cancelled.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101.

The USPTO respectfully rejects claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants respectfully note that these claims have been cancelled.

V. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

The USPTO respectfully rejects claims 1, 4, 9-11, 14-21, 24-25, 27-35, and 38-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Goodale et al. (US 5,125,075). Of these, claims 21, 24-25, 27-35, and 38-44 have been cancelled. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

Regarding the limitations of claim 1 that claim in relevant part:

“wherein when the next one of plurality of circulation clients is incapable of circulation, said transmission client or one of said plurality of circulation clients, having sent said document file and said circulation information file to said next one of said plurality of circulation clients, conducts at least one of (1) notifying incapability of circulation by said next one of said plurality of circulation clients to other ones of said plurality of circulation clients or said transmission client, (2) sending said document file and said circulation information file to other one of said plurality of circulation clients next to said next one of said plurality of circulation clients, (3) sending

said document file and said circulation information file to a proxy client of said next one of said plurality of circulation clients” (emphasis added)

it is respectfully not seen where Goodale discloses the claimed limitations quoted above. Namely, in the specifically claimed system of claim 1, when the next one of a plurality of circulation clients is incapable of circulation, at least one of the countermeasures (1) to (3) claimed in claim 1 is conducted so that document circulation can be continued without suspension. In other words, at least one of the specifically claimed countermeasures are taken in response to a circulation error

The USPTO respectfully alleges on pages 11-12 of the Office Action that Goodale discloses the specifically claimed countermeasures quoted above. However, Goodale respectfully does not appear to disclose that the possible actions quoted above are performed in response to a circulation error, such as one of the circulation clients being incapable of circulation.

Instead, as noted in column 2, lines 8-14 and column 12, lines 30-36, Goodale merely appears to teach the display of mail item information or specifying the order of circulation. Furthermore, **Goodale does not appear to even consider the problem of one of the plurality of circulation clients being incapable of circulation.** Thus, if Goodale does not foresee the problem of circulation error, it respectfully follows logically that Goodale cannot possibly disclose the specifically claimed methods of responding to the problem, as claimed in claim 1.

In contrast, pages 19-21 of the present specification explain one possible embodiment of the system claimed in claim 1. For example, as explained on page 20 of the present specification, the selection/transmission processor 22 specifies the proxy client 2 of the next circulation client 2, based on the proxy destination information included in the circulation information file of the circulation file. As explained on page 19, this type of action is done in response to the failure of the circulation to terminate correctly. Thus, the system described on pages 19-21 of the present specification can take one of the specifically claimed countermeasures in response to a circulation error, as claimed in claim 1.

Thus, it is respectfully asserted that Goodale does not disclose all the specifically claimed limitations of claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted Goodale does not anticipate claim 1.

VI. The dependent claims.

As noted above, it is respectfully asserted that independent claim 1 is allowable, and therefore it is further respectfully asserted that dependent claims 2-13, 17-20 are also allowable.

VII. The new claims.

Applicants respectfully note that new claims 45-48 have been added. It is respectfully asserted that the remarks in part V. above apply equally to new claims 45-48, and therefore Goodale does not anticipate claims 45-48.

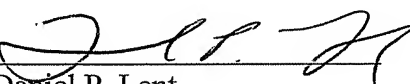
VII. Conclusion.

Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Please contact the undersigned for any reason. Applicants seek to cooperate with the Examiner including via telephone if convenient for the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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